



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Hank Steinfeld.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2010-0226 Proclamation Honoring Richard Herring

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

Mayor's Challenge

Mayor Streeter announced that Groton participated in the First Annual Corporate Games fundraising event entitled the "Mayor's Challenge". The event benefited the Boys & Girls Club and consisted of whiffle ball, basketball free-throws, volleyball, soccer kicks, and an obstacle course. The Town of Groton team took 8th place in field events, but raised \$2,746 for the Boys & Girls Club organization, winning the Mayor's Challenge trophy. Mayor Streeter expressed his gratitude to all who contributed.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Peter Roper, 210 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, read a draft "letter to the editor" that he intends to submit to the local newspaper. Mr. Roper believes that Southeastern Connecticut TV, a nonprofit company, should be the one to provide local public access programming rather than the Town. He asked the Council to rescind its vote to apply to become a public access provider.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

The Town Manager stated that the Town is in the process of finalizing its application to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) to provide public access television. He noted that DPUC will hold a public hearing before making its final decision.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0227 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 19, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0220 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Anonymous - \$4.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Servidio - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

John Lawrence - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Various Donations - \$102.20 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$192.55 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Susan DeCorte McMillan - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Estate of William Halliwell - \$500.00 - Library Donation Fund

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0211 Adoption of 2011 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0212 Adoption of 2011 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0213 Adoption of 2011 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0214 Adoption of 2011 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0222 2011 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Amendment to Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0224 Mystic and Noank Library Study Committee

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received emails regarding the Historic District Commission and River Road repairs.

Councilor Johnson attended an Economic Development Commission meeting. He rebutted comments made at a recent RTM meeting about a proposal he made for commercial trash collection. Councilor Johnson clarified his position and stated his intention to address the RTM at its next meeting.

Councilor Watson and Councilor Sheets attended the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund Dinner.

Councilor Sheets attended a Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community meeting.

In answer to an inquiry by Councilor Sheets, it was noted that the architectural depictions for

River Road include barriers, but it will be up to the Town to decide what kind of barrier, if any, will be used. River Road is a scenic road and there will be a public hearing before any decision is made.

Councilor Kolnaski was a volunteer at the Groton Senior Center Flu Clinic.

Councilor Flax attended two Noank School Reuse Task Force meetings.

Councilor Streeter received emails regarding the Mystic & Noank Library, Groton Long Point funding, and a letter on fences on Buddington Road. He has scheduled a meeting with the Chairman of the Historic District Commission. He attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the Mystic Streetscape, a Boys & Girls Club fund-raiser, a tour of Groton Heights School, and the Mystic River Bridge briefing. The Mayor noted that there will be a joint meeting with the Board of Education on November 8, 2010, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony will be performing on November 20, 2010.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular meeting of the RTM will be on November 10, 2010.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reported on the election of November 2, 2010, and noted that Fred Palm was elected as the Regional Judge of Probate for the Towns of Groton, Stonington, North Stonington, and Ledyard.

d. Town Manager

The Town of Groton received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FYE 2009 Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Town Manager noted that this will directly affect the Town's bond ratings. He stated that there will be a special meeting with the Board of Education on November 8, 2010, the Thames Street Review Committee will make its final report to the Committee of the Whole on November 9, 2010, and timeframes for initial highway budget meetings are being discussed.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve Resolutions 2010-0211 Adoption of 2011 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule, 2010-0212 Adoption of 2011 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule, 2010-0213 Adoption of 2011 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule, and 2010-0214 Adoption of 2011 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

2010-0211 Adoption of 2011 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2011 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council regular meeting schedule for 2011 as follows:

Tuesday, January 4, 2011
Tuesday, January 18, 2011

Tuesday, February 1, 2011
Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Tuesday April 5, 2011
Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Tuesday, June 7, 2011
Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Tuesday, July 5, 2011
Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Tuesday, August 2, 2011
Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Tuesday, October 4, 2011
Tuesday, October 18, 2011

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Tuesday, December 6, 2011
Tuesday, December 20, 2011

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the First and Third Tuesdays of each month.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0212

Adoption of 2011 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2011 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2011 as follows:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Tuesday, May 10, 2011
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Tuesday, June 14, 2011
Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Tuesday, August 9, 2011
Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 2011*
Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Tuesday, December 27, 2011

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, except as noted.

* Moved to Wednesday because of Election Day on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0213

Adoption of 2011 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2011 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING
SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees regular meeting schedule for 2011 as follows:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 2011*

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 3, Town Hall Annex 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, except as noted.

* Moved to Wednesday because of Election Day on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0214

Adoption of 2011 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees regular meeting schedule for 2011 as follows:

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 2011*

Tuesday, November 22, 2011

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of each month, except as noted.

* Moved to Wednesday because of Election Day on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0222

2011 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Amendment to Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities

RESOLUTION SETTING 2011 RATES FOR THE SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE AND APPROVING REVISED REGULATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Golf Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission have endorsed a 0% increase in fees for the Shennecossett Golf Course 2011 Playing Season, and

WHEREAS, additional recommendations include establishing a three month payment plan for season passes along with modifications to the Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities to reflect the 2011 rates and payment plan, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the municipal golf course rates for the 2011 playing season shall be the rates as attached to this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the revised Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities as noted above and endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their October 13, 2010 meeting.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Flax stated that he would like to see the golf course making a profit instead of just covering its expenses.

The Town Manager stated that operationally it is set up to pay for itself. Income and expense levels could change if the course went to a 7-8 month schedule and utilized more seasonal staff, but Mr. Oefinger is unsure whether the number of season passes would drop due to the reduced schedule.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0224

Mystic and Noank Library Study Committee

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MYSTIC AND NOANK LIBRARY STUDY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council and the Stonington Board of Selectmen met on October 19, 2010 to discuss issues of mutual concern, and

WHEREAS, one topic of discussion was identifying a process and formula to guide the two municipalities in providing equitable funding for the Mystic and Noank Library, and

WHEREAS, representatives from Groton and Stonington agreed to establish a Mystic and Noank Library Study Committee comprised of representatives from the Town Council, Representative Town Meeting (RTM), Stonington Board of Selectmen, Stonington Finance Committee, Mystic and Noank Library, and the community at large, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council chooses to appoint one member of the Town Council, two members of the RTM, and one member of the community at large to the Mystic and Noank Library Study Committee, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council invites the Town of Stonington and Mystic and Noank Library to appoint members to the Study Committee as they deem appropriate and reaffirms Groton's desire to work cooperatively to address equitable funding for the Mystic and Noank Library.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor O'Beirne thought that at least one or two members of the Mystic & Noank Library would be included in the study committee.

The Town Manager stated that the Mystic & Noank Library will delegate its own representatives for this committee and, in addition, the Mayor will select one member at large.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant